

REMARKS

Claims 1-13, 24, 26, 28, 29 and 31 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 28, 29 and 31 are amended and claims 14-23, 25, 27 and 30 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiner Rickman at the interview held August 19, 2003 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute the Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 24, 26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Carey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,280,813) (Carey), claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Carey and claims 29 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Carey in view of Matsuda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,197,367) (Matsuda). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As agreed during the personal interview, Carey does not disclose or suggest a magnetic recording medium comprising *inter alia* a ferromagnetic atom-rich layer wherein the ferromagnetic atom-rich layer is formed of a cobalt alloy containing 62% to 83% of cobalt, as recited in independent claims 1, 28, 29 and 31. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 28, 29 and 31 over Carey be withdrawn.

For at least their dependency on independent claim 1, Applicants assert that dependent claims 2-9, 24 and 26 also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

Additionally, the subject matter of claim 1 would not have been obvious from Carey. Accordingly, for at least the dependency of claims 10-13 on claim 1, Applicants assert that

claims 10-13 define patentable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 10-13 be withdrawn.

Moreover, Matsuda fails to cure the deficiencies of Carey in disclosing each and every feature of independent claims 29 and 31. Thus, claims 29 and 31 are patentably distinct from Carey and Matsuda, even if Carey and Matsuda are combined. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29 and 31 under §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13, 24, 26, 28, 29 and 31 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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